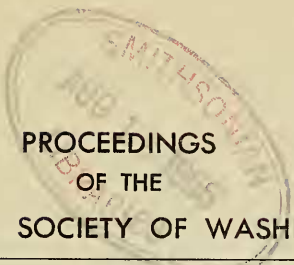


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PARALIPARIS WILSONI, A NEW LIPARID FISH
FROM THE GULF OF GUINEA

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During a bottom trawling survey carried out from the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries R/V GERONIMO, off Gabon, West Africa, in September 1963, a fish specimen was caught which represents a new species in the family Liparidae.

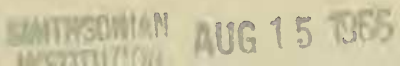
Paraliparis wilsoni new species

Holotype: United States National Museum no. 198201, a female, 215.0 mm, standard length, caught off Gabon, West Africa, in a 40-foot shrimp trawl from the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries R/V GERONIMO cruise 2, station 240, 04°08'S-010°08'E; depth 1134 meters; 9 September 1963.

Diagnosis: A *Paraliparis* with simple teeth in a single series, 24 pectoral rays, and many rudimentary pores extending posteriorly in a single line along the body behind the single suprabranchial pore.

Counts and measurements: The measurements are in millimeters, and percentages of standard length are in parentheses. The counts of vertebrae, dorsal fin rays, anal fin rays, and caudal fin rays are from radiographs. Greatest body depth 47.6 (22.1); body width at level of anal fin origin 15.4 (7.2); greatest head width 29.5 (13.7); head length 36.4 (16.9); eye 8.9 (4.1); snout length 12.3 (5.7); interorbital width 16.5 (7.7); gill slit 6.1 (2.8); snout to posterior tip of pectoral fin 62.0 (28.8); length of upper lobe of pectoral fin 21.0 (9.8); length of lower lobe of pectoral fin 8.3 (3.9); snout to anus 39.0 (18.1); dorsal rays 63; anal rays 56; pectoral rays 24; caudal rays 8; vertebrae 12 + 58 = 70, including hypural; branchiostegals 6; abdominal caecae 6, all on left side; cephalic pores include 2 on snout, 6 in a series extending along lower margin of snout and curving dorsally to above and behind the eye, and 7 in a series extending from tip of lower jaw to opercle; 1 suprabranchial pore above the gill slit.

Description: A moderately slender and compressed fish with greatest body depth (just behind head) 4.5 in standard length; body width at



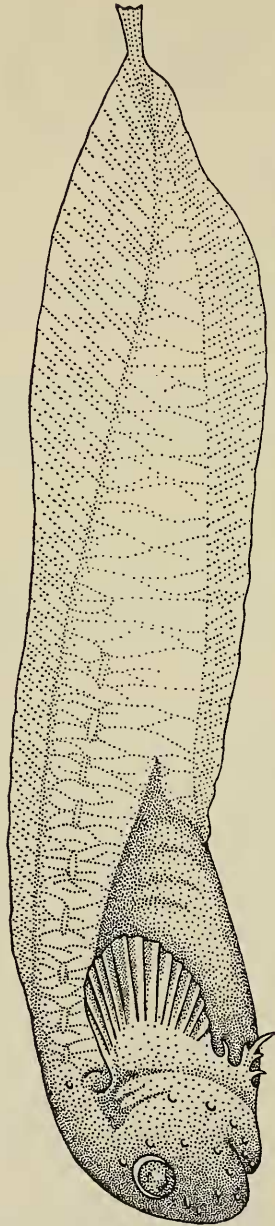


FIG. 1. Holotype of *Paraliparis wilsoni*, 215.0 mm in standard length. Drawn by Lorraine Pilon Sund.

level of anal fin origin, 14.0 in standard length. Skin smooth, lacking prickles, and very loose on body and fins.

Dorsal fin origin a short distance behind vertical from gill slit; dorsal fin unnotched, height increasing from origin, and highest at about fin rays 43–50. Anal fin origin at posterior end of abdominal cavity, at a distance from vent of 4.1 in standard length. Pectoral fin deeply notched; nineteenth ray, counting dorsal to ventral at apex of notch.

Head slightly deeper than broad in opercular region. Snout protruding over the inferior mouth; snout length 3.0 in head. Eye large, 4.1 in head; pupil round. Nostril single and oval without a flap, resembling a cephalic pore, and located midway between posterior snout pore and anterior edge of eye. At least 10 rudimentary pores extend posteriorly on body from suprabranchial pore. Very small simple teeth form a row on the premaxillary and dentary bones, but are absent at the premaxillary symphysis. Preopercular and palatine teeth not discernible. Gillrakers not discernible. Gill opening small, 6.0 in head, and located directly above pectoral fin base.

Skin semi-transparent and covered with many small brown chromatophores. Chromatophores arranged in a diffuse, vertically oriented pattern on body; concentrated on anterior part of head and on fin edges, giving these areas a dark appearance. Eye, interior of mouth, gill cavity, gill slit, peritoneum, vent, strip posterior to vent on abdominal cavity, and rectal portion of gut black. Dorsal outline of abdominal cavity black, with black streaks curving anteroventrally. Body has a few irregular black spots, particularly near region of abdominal cavity. Gut white, except in rectal area.

Relationships: The genera *Careproctus* Kroyer and *Paraliparis* Collett are very similar in many characters (Burke, 1930). The presence of a ventral disk and rudimentary pores in *Careproctus* and their absence in *Paraliparis* are the two most important distinguishing characters. However, *P. wilsoni*, while lacking any vestige of a ventral disk, does have rudimentary pores on the body. Therefore, the generic allocation of this species is tentative.

If *P. wilsoni* is correctly placed in *Paraliparis*, then its closest relative is probably *P. copei* Goode and Bean, the only other Atlantic species with simple teeth in a single series. The single specimen of *P. wilsoni* differs from *P. copei* in having: rudimentary pores on the body posterior to the suprabranchial pore (none on *P. copei*); more pectoral rays (21–22 in *P. copei*); and a different color pattern (*P. wilsoni* is very dark and has a distinct chromatophore pattern, whereas *P. copei* is light, except on the snout and fin edges, and has no recognizable chromatophore pattern). No reliable distinction between *P. wilsoni* and *P. copei* is apparent in the numbers of dorsal rays, anal rays, or vertebrae (the numbers in *P. copei* are, respectively: 61–64, 57–60, and 68–71).

Specimens of P. copei examined: U. S. 35637, the holotype, 160.9 mm in standard length, collected at R/V ALBATROSS station 2232, 39°12'17"N–072°09'30"W; depth 520 fathoms; 13 September 1884.

U. S. 186151, 139.4 mm in standard length, collected at R/V DELAWARE station 59-10, 39°47'N-070°57'W; depth 800 fathoms; 27 August 1959.

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P. wilsoni is named for Mr. Robert C. Wilson, U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, who conceived and directed the trawling survey during which this new species was collected.

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